Billing Code: 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF314

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold two training workshops for its for-hire advisory panel members and other for-hire operators for purposes of providing instruction on electronic reporting of for-hire Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs).

DATES: The meetings will be held Tuesday, April 25, 2017 and Thursday April 27, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The workshops will be held: Tuesday, April 25, at the Hilton Mystic Hotel 20 Coogan Blvd., Mystic CT 06355; phone: (860) 572-0731. Thursday, April 27, at the Doubletree by Hilton Baltimore-BWI Airport, 890 Elkridge Landing Rd, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090; phone: (410) 859-8400. Participation is limited to 30 individuals in each workshop due to space limitations. To ensure attendance, please register at http://www.mafmc.org/forms/evtr-workshop-registration or email the workshop coordinator at aloftus@andrewloftus.com.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State St., Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Loftus, eVTR Outreach Workshop Coordinator; telephone: (410) 295-5997; email: *aloftus@andrewloftus.com* or Christopher M.

Moore, Ph.D. Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302)

526-5255. The Council's website, www.mafmc.org also has details on the proposed agenda and

briefing materials.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council has submitted a Regulatory Omnibus

Framework Adjustment to NMFS requiring that for-hire vessels submit VTRs electronically

starting 6 months following publication of the final rule in the Federal Register for all Council-

managed fisheries that require for-hire VTR reporting. This action would change the method of

transmitting VTRs - the required data elements would not change. VTRs would be required to

be completed before arriving at the dock, and electronic reports would have to be submitted

within 48 hours after docking. These workshops will provide training for the Council's for-hire

advisory panel members and the public in preparation for this action.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign

language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526-

5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 28, 2017.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director,

Office of Sustainable Fisheries,

National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2017-06375 Filed: 3/30/2017 8:45 am; Publication Date: 3/31/2017]

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